



*Did You know that*

*The world's all-time longest  
wrestling match,*

---

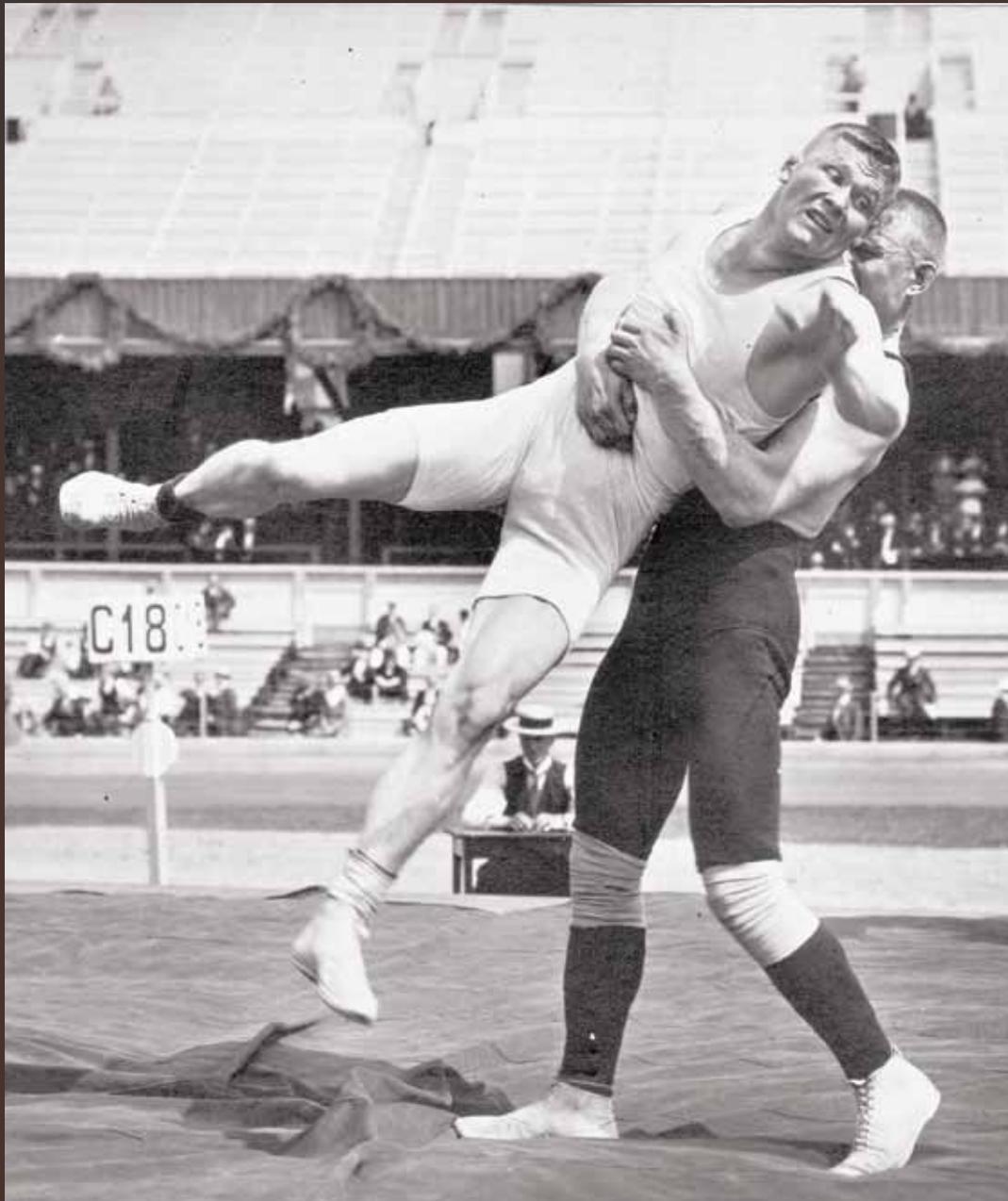
lasting 11 hours and 40 minutes, was held by the Estonian Martin Klein and  
the Finn Alfred Asikainen at the Stockholm Olympic Games in 1912?

---

Tiesitkö, että maailman kaikkien aikojen pisimmän painiottelun 11 tuntia ja 40 minuuttia kävivät vuonna 1912 Tukholman olympialaisissa virolainen Martin Klein ja suomalainen Alfred Asikainen?

Знаете ли вы, что самый длительный борцовский поединок за всю мировую историю - 11 часов 40 минут - провели эстонец Мартин Клейн и финн Альфред Асикайнен в 1912 году на олимпийских играх в Стокгольме?

Kas teadsid, et maailma kõigi aegade pikima maadlusmatši 11 tundi ja 40 minutit pidasid 1912. aasta Stockholmi olümpiamängudel eestlane Martin Klein ja soomlane Alfred Asikainen?



The match between Klein and Asikainen in the under-75kg finals (which consisted of three participants) began 10:30 a.m. and ended 10:10 p.m. with Martin Klein's victory. Neither Klein nor Asikainen were capable of continuing the match, and so the Swede Claes Johanson, the third to make it to the finals, became the Olympic champion.

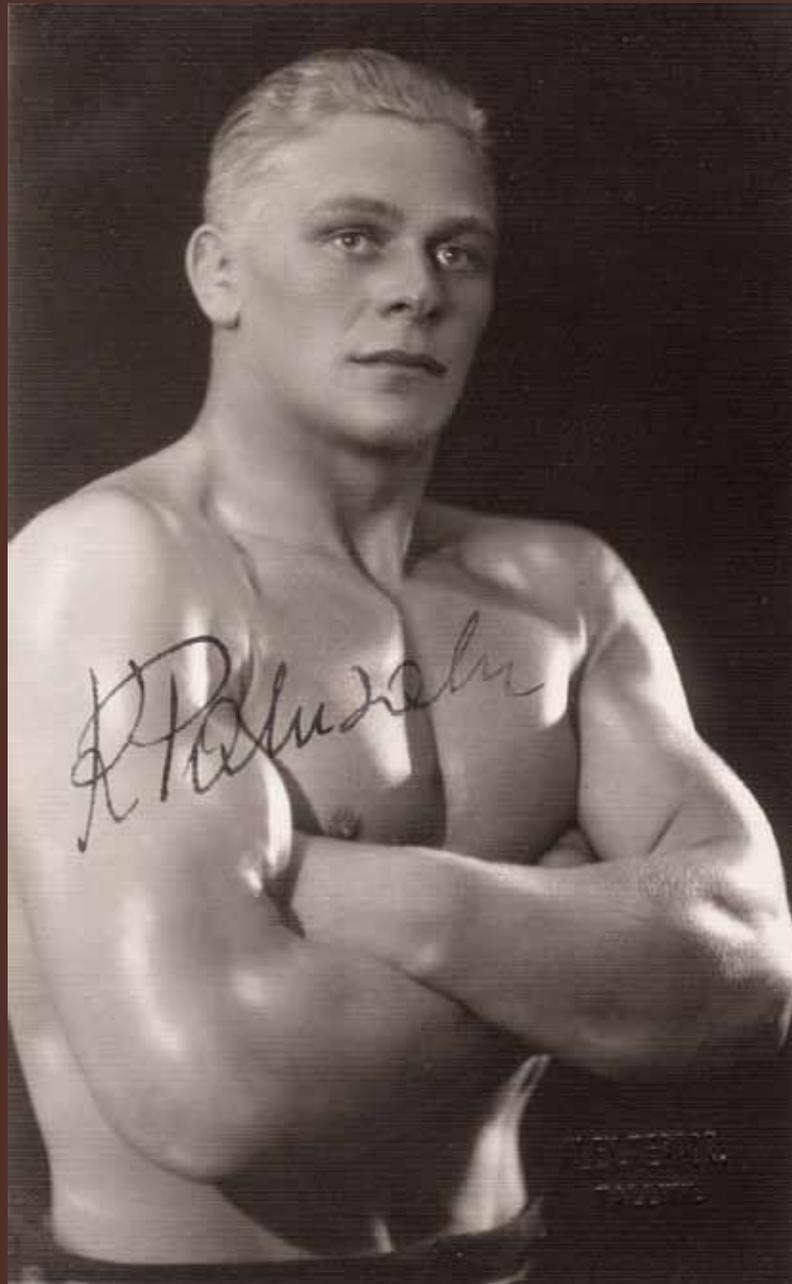
*Martin Klein is shown in a white singlet.*



Victory during the marathon match meant a silver medal for Klein at the Stockholm Olympic Games. This was the first Olympic medal won by an Estonian throughout the history!



The Olympic Games held in the Swedish capital provided a watershed moment of their age in terms of their organisation and the competition programme. The wrestling matches, where were held in fine summer weather (at times, the wrestlers were wrestling in up to 40-degree heat), drew quite a crowd of spectators, and a record number of athletes attended.



WRESTLING HAS BEEN FOR ESTONIANS  
THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT  
AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES

At subsequent Olympic Games, other wrestlers who were of Estonian origin have added another thirteen medals to the tally started by Martin Klein's first Olympic medal, including six gold medals.

*Kristjan Palusalu, two-time wrestling champion at the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936.*



#### OLYMPIC DEBUT BY ESTONIANS

Estonians first headed for the Olympics in 1912. At least thirteen athletes who were linked to Estonia are known to have participated in the Stockholm Olympic Games as part of the team fielded by Tsarist Russia. Russian athletes before leaving for Stockholm.

*Martin Klein (marked with a dark cross) in centre front row.*



### OLYMPIC MEDALS AT THE MUSEUM

A large share of Olympic medals won by Estonians may be viewed at the Estonian Sports Museum in Tartu ([www.spordimuuseum.ee](http://www.spordimuuseum.ee)), including the silver medal won by Martin Klein in Stockholm 1912.



### AN ATHLETIC BODY AND AN ATHLETIC MIND

Martin Klein had ten children. Being a convinced proponent of a healthy lifestyle, he also encouraged his seven sons and three daughters to take up sports and even held mini-Olympic Games within his family.



WALKING ON THEIR HANDS –  
THE ‘TRADEMARK’ OF THE KLEIN FAMILY

Walking on their hands was the stock-in-trade of the Klein family; all of the boys in the large family had to be skilled in that art.



### MARTIN KLEIN'S HOME TOWN

Martin Klein is buried in Tarvastu Cemetery in the Tarvastu Rural Municipality in Viljandi County. His contemporaries recalled that during his lifetime he had gone up to the very same church tower, walking on his hands the entire way.



### MARTIN KLEIN'S HOME TOWN

A display is dedicated to Klein at Mustla, which lies at the centre of his native rural municipality.



## MEMORIAL TO KLEIN

In 2002, a memorial recalling Martin Klein's great achievement was erected in the square in front of the Viljandi City Sports Building. City of Viljandi is famous for the excavated ruins of a medieval castle, many sports competitions and the summer-time Viljandi Folk Music Festival.